

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 /072 W

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R 201433Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7286

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9841

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: DEMIREL WAITS FOR MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR COALITION

REF: ANKARA 9746

SUMMARY: THE PROSPECTS FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT ON THE RIGHT, WHILE NOT YET APPROACHING A CERTAINTY, ARE BECOMING STRONGER. THE OUTCOME OF DEMIREL'S CURRENT EFFORT MAY NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW SEC GEN OF JUSTICE PARTY (JP), NAHIT MENTESE, TOLD US DECEMBER 19 THAT ALTHOUGH JP CHAIRMAN DEMIREL IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS "NATIONALIST FRONT" COALITION OF CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES COULD WIN VOTE OF CONFIDENCE NOW, DEMIREL WILL NOT ASK PRESIDENT TO NAME HIM TO FORM GOVERNMENT UNTIL HE HAS ASSURED SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF 450-SEAT LOWER HOUSE. PRESIDENT KORUTURK DOES NOT WISH TO REPEAT EXPERIENCE OF SEEING A GOVERNMENT THAT
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HE HAD APPROVED LOSE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, AS HAPPENED WITH

IRMAK GOVERNMENT, MENTESE SAID. ACCORDINGLY, KORUTURK IS INSISTING THAT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT BE BASED ON SUPPORT OF AT LEAST 226 PARLIAMENTARY VOTES. (JP IS CURRENTLY COUNTING ON 217 "YES" VOTES AND WOULD EXPECT BE AIDED BY LARGE NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS.)

2. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT'S REQUIREMENT, JP IS AWAITING FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) TO CHANGE ITS MIND AND DELIVER ITS 41 VOTES TO COALITION, ACCORDING TO MENTESE. HOWEVER, HE SAID, CONTRARY TO DP'S ACCUSATIONS, JP IS NOT TRYING TO SPLIT DP OR TO BUY ITS MEMBERS. DP CURRENTLY DOES NOT KNOW WITH WHICH MAJOR PARTY TO ALLY ITSELF, JP OR REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), BUT WOULD HAVE TO CALCULATE THAT IT WOULD LOSE VOTES IF IT STAYED OUTSIDE ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WHICH OTHER CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES ARE NOW PREPARING, HE SAID.

3. MENTESE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT MILITARY TO INTERVENE UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BECAUSE OFFICERS WERE AWARE OF HOW COSTLY TO TURKEY SUCH INTERVENTION WOULD BE.

4. COMMENT: DP REMAINS UNCOMMITTED AS TO ITS FUTURE COURSE, UNWILLING TO GIVE IN TO PRESSURE TO JOIN DEMIREL-LED COALITION AND APPARENTLY UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT FOR COALITION WITH RPP. LATTER PARTY IS SHOWING NO SIGN OF INTEREST IN UNDERTAKING NEW INITIATIVE TO FORM GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME, AND MANY OF ITS TOP LEADERS HAVE ALREADY LEFT ANKRAR FOR HOLIDAYS. PARLIAMENT BEGAN HOLIDAY RECESS DECEMBER 19 WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL JANUARY 2, THUS ADDING TO IMPROBABILITY THAT GOVERNMENT CRISIS CAN BE RESOLVED UNTIL AFTER START OF NEW YEAR(BY WHICH TIME, WE NOTE, CRISIS WILL HAVE SURPASSED 101 DAY LENGTH OF PREVIOUS SUCH STALEMATE AMONG PARTIES).
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